



# NEZ PERCE NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

## *Progress Report*



Fall 2011

## Administrator's Corner

Greetings,

We applaud the great work that was accomplished this year by our sister agencies and partners. Please take time to read their articles in this Progress Report. I would like to highlight a few accomplishments from this field season. The Bitterroot National Forest continued annual maintenance of the Nez Perce National Historic Trail (NPNHT) on the Forest which includes monitoring and replacement of NPNHT signs. The Forest and the staff of the NPNHT appreciate the help of the Bitterroot Chapter of the Back Country Horseman of America whose members annually perform maintenance along the NPNHT. More information about their experience on the NPNHT this past summer can be found on page 15 of this Report. Their work will continue to encourage this type of stewardship with all volunteer groups.

The Wallowa-Whitman National Forest recently improved 1.5 miles of trail and maintained another 7 miles of the trail. They are also monitoring for any residual impacts from the Cactus Mountain Fire this past summer. See page 8 for more information on the impact from fire along the NPNHT this year.

We are finalizing the field work and Challenge Cost Share (CCS) projects conducted this past year and will share more information in the Winter Progress Report.

We encourage everyone to submit their CCS applications to us for the 2012 season. Please remember they are due on November 30. Visit our website for applications and other pertinent information related to the CCS process.

As we finish our two remaining workshops for the revision of the NPNHT Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) we want to keep in mind this thought as we move forward with the planning process. Service, honor, respect: strengthening our cultures and communities is the key to our success in creating a viable CMP that will serve the NPNHT for years to come.

November is Native American Heritage Month. Currently there are 565 federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native tribes, and more than 100 state-recognized tribes across the United States. For more information visit the Library of Congress website at: [www.nativeamericanheritagemonth.gov/](http://www.nativeamericanheritagemonth.gov/)

*Sandi McFarland*, Administrator NPNHT



## Public Invited to Participate in Revision of the Nez Perce National Historic Trail Comprehensive Management Plan

During the next few weeks, managers along the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT) are still asking for public input on a variety of topics related to the administration of the Trail.

Trail staff has held eighteen workshops along the entire length of the NPNHT during the past year and we still have two workshops to complete by early 2012 to finish our initial comment phase.

The public's response to our Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) revision workshops has been very positive this past year. We met many interesting people, heard new stories about the 1877 Flight of the Nez Perce, and learned about the impact of the Flight on local tribes, communities, families, and events. At this time, we have received more than 600 substantive comments to consider as we begin to develop the framework for the CMP revision. The comments are posted on the trail's website ([www.fs.usda.gov/goto/npnht/plans](http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/npnht/plans)) and will be updated as we proceed throughout the revision process.

Traveling the length of the trail this year we have developed a new understanding for the conditions in which the Nez Perce traveled the same ground over a four month period. Through our trips we have been able to visualize and appreciate the arduous journey of the Flight. Our interaction with people during the past year has given us a larger perspective on how the 1877 Flight of the Nez Perce touched so many lives. It is very uplifting to meet people, historical groups, and tribal members from many tribal nations, pioneer family members, and Nez Perce peoples who are dedicated to assisting us with the CMP revision process to develop truly a great document that will serve everyone in the future.

For additional information, and to review a document of comments that have been received through July of 2011, please visit the NPNHT website at: [www.fs.usda.gov/npnht](http://www.fs.usda.gov/npnht), follow the links to the CMP revision page from the NPNHT homepage. This website provides more information about the NPNHT, the process for the revision of the CMP, additional means to provide written comment if people are unable to attend one of the scheduled workshops.

If you have any questions or comments on the CMP do not hesitate to call or email me.

Sincerely,

*Julie A Molzahn, CMP Revision Team Leader*

(406) 826-4352

[jmolzahn@fs.fed.us](mailto:jmolzahn@fs.fed.us)

Photo from recent workshop in Chinook, MT.



# National Trails Enthusiast Hikes the Nez Perce National Historic Trail During the Summer

In early June the staff of the Nez Perce National Historic Trail (NPNHT) got wind that a special visitor was traveling the Trail. Bart Smith, 52, of Lakewood, WA, is not unfamiliar with our country's [National Trails System](#). To date he has logged more than 17,000 miles on National Trails from Florida to Washington State.

In early June Smith began his journey of NPNHT in the Wallowa Valley of northeast Oregon. During the next several months, at a pace of 20 to 25 miles per day, Smith hiked more than the 1,170 miles originally traversed by the Nimi'ipuu 134 years earlier. By rough estimates, he mainly followed the "Auto Tour" route. Smith covered nearly 1,500 miles between early June and his final destination in north central Montana. He arrived at the Bear Paw National Battlefield on October 1, 2011, in time to participate with members of the Nez Perce Tribe at the annual Battlefield Memorial.

Bart becomes the latest person who has traveled the NPNHT on foot and in roughly the same time frame as the Nez Perce did during the Flight of 1877.



Barth Smith along the NPNHT in Oregon, June 2011

NPNHT staff visited with Smith in Chinook where he shared with us that everyone he spoke with in all the communities along the entire length of the Trail were not only aware that the NPNHT ran through their area but also took special pride in the Trail.

"You hear stories of travelers in our modern society having bad encounters, but that has not been my experience during my hikes, once you get near the ground people are kinder, more open and willing to offer a helping hand more often than not," said Smith. "Along the entire length of the Trail I found people to be very hospitable and willing to share their knowledge and stories as they related to the Nez Perce and the events of 1877."

The quote "behind every great man there's a great woman" holds true for the story of Smith's journey along the nation's National Trails System. Several times during his hike of the NPNHT his wife Bridgie Smith, a critical-care nurse in Tacoma, WA, drove Bart to starting points, and was there to pick him up at the end of the trail in Chinook, MT. As always, Bridgie was very enthusiastic about her husband's completing the latest segment of his quest. Smith credits much of his success to his wife, without whom Smith may never have become a published nature photographer. Just one example of her support is the Nikon D300 digital camera Smith uses, "Bridgie bought it for me," Smith enthusiastically comments. "I couldn't attempt this endeavor without her support." (*Barth and Bridgie pictured at Bear Paw, on left, October 2011*)



His interest in hiking the nations national scenic trails began in 1992-93 with a vision to hike the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (PCT). In 1998 he published a "coffee table" book of photographs entitled [Along The Pacific Crest Trail](#).

During the next year Bart will continue his journey along the countries National Historic Trails with visits to the Trail of Tears NHT, The El Camino Real de los Tejas NHT, and the Oregon Trail NHT. His goal is to finish hiking all the National Historic Trails in time for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the National Trails System Act in 2018.

For more information about Smith and to see his work, including other books he has published on the National Trails System, visit his website at: [www.walkingdownadream.com/press.html](http://www.walkingdownadream.com/press.html)

Happy Trails Bart and be safe.





## Take A Virtual Journey Along the Nez Perce NHT



Last winter a Challenge Cost Share grant was awarded to the Nez Perce Trail Foundation to create a virtual tour of the Nez Perce National Historic Trail (NPNHT) using Google Earth. The Foundation worked with Ron Hall from eastern Washington to develop the tour.

Currently it encompasses NPNHT Auto Tour segments 1 –5 and 7.

Using the Google Earth tool visitors can get a bird's eye view of the NPNHT and get a feel for the terrain that the Nez Perce travel through in 1877.

“We think this will be an excellent teaching tool,” said Foundation Executive Director Jim Evans. “Now teachers in classrooms around the world can take their students for a trip along the Nez Perce Trail without ever leaving their classroom.”

Educators will find the tour most useful by using it in the powerful Google Earth browser, which is available as a [free download](#). Once you have Google Earth open on your computer, on the left navigation bar click on Earth Gallery, then search for Nez Perce Trail. Next click on the link “open in Google earth” and you will be treated to a multitude of ways to virtually experience the NPNHT.

This virtual tour can also be accessed via mobile devices such as tablets and smart phones.

To take the tour, visit the Nez Perce Trail Foundations website at: <http://nezperce trail.net/> and click on the Google Earth Virtual Tour button in the upper right hand corner of the page.

More than 4,500 people have visited via Google Earth and taken all or part of the virtual journey during the past year.

## Nez Perce Trail Staff Greet Montana History Conference Attendees

In late September hundreds of people gathered for the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Montana Historical Society Conference in Missoula, MT. The Conference explored the role of warfare in traditional Native American culture, the contributions that Montanans have made to our nation's wars, the impact that those wars had on life in the Treasure State, and the efforts of those who fought to resist armed conflict. In commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the United States' entry into WWII, conference highlights which included sessions on, and a visit to, Fort Missoula, which also played a role in the Nez Perce Flight in 1877.

Public Affairs Officer for the Nez Perce National Historic Trail, Roger Peterson interacted with conference participants which including professional historians, educators, museum directors, agency personnel, and other hotel guests.

During the three day conference Peterson provided attendees with information about the NPNHT CMP revision, Trail brochures, educational materials, maps, and copies of the NPNHT DVD Landscape of History.



Conference attendees visit NPNHT exhibit.

## Public Encouraged to Submit Challenge Cost Share Applications For Nez Perce National Historic Trail Projects

The public is encouraged to propose projects designed to improve and enhance the visitor's experience along the Nez Perce National Historic Trail (NPNHT). The submitted projects will be considered for the 2012 project year funding. Project funding was made available through funds designated to administer the NPNHT. **Completed applications must be post marked by November 30, 2011.**

The Challenge Cost Share Program (CCSP) is a matching fund program. An equal amount of eligible and matching share (minimum 50%) of cash, goods, or services from non-federal sources is required. Currently, the maximum CCSP award is \$30,000. Projects selected should generally be able to be completed within one year.

Project application forms and instructions for completing the application are available at the Nez Perce National Historic Trail website at [www.fs.usda.gov/goto/npnht/partners](http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/npnht/partners) or from the Nez Perce National Historic Trail Administrator, located at the Clearwater National Forest Supervisor's Office in Orofino, ID.

Applicants are encouraged to submit their forms electronically. E-mail applications to Sandi McFarland at [npnht@fs.fed.us](mailto:npnht@fs.fed.us). Proposals may also be mailed to: NPNHT Administrator, 12730 Highway 12, Orofino, ID, 83544.

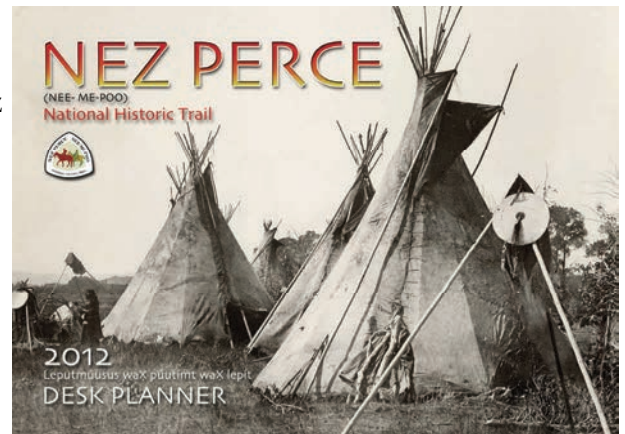
For additional information applicants may also contact Sandi McFarland, NPNHT Administrator at (208) 476-8334.

## 2012 Nez Perce National Historic Trail Desk Planners Available Soon

The annual desk planner has been sent to the printer and delivery is anticipated in early December. Trail staff will begin distribution to partners and visitor centers along the Nez Perce National Historic Trail (NPNHT) as soon as they arrive.

This year's version of popular planner features historic images of people, places, and artifacts connected to the historic trail and includes information about the Nez Perce, U.S. Army, and the NPNHT.

Special thanks to Jason Blake of *Recreation Solutions* who helped with layout and design, Angel Sobotta of the Nez Perce Language Program who provided Nez Perce names for inclusion in the Planner, and Wilfred "Scotty" Scott from the [Nez Perce Tribe](http://www.nezperce-tribe.com) who provided information on the annual commemorations.



### UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Fall 2011—Nez Perce NHT [CMP Revision Public Workshop](#), Nespelem, WA, TBA, visit the NPNHT website for updates
- November—Native American Heritage Month
- November 25, 2011 — Native American Heritage Day
- December 3, 2011 — Annual Beadwork Bazaar, Nez Perce National Historical Park, Spalding Visitor Center, ID
- January—March, 2012—Winter Storyteller Series at [Travelers Rest State Park](#), see their website for details.
- February 12-17, 2012 — Hike the Hill: Trails Advocacy Week, Washington DC—[www.americanhiking.org/hth/](http://www.americanhiking.org/hth/)





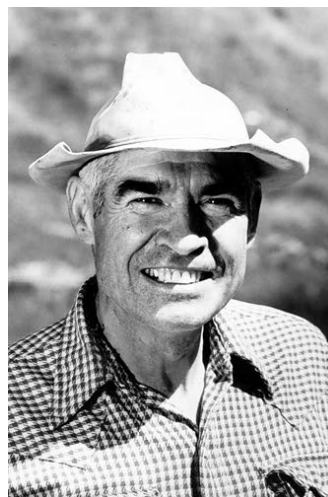
## George B. Hatley, “Mr. Appaloosa” and NPNHT Friend Passes

George B. Hatley, retired cattleman and past executive secretary of the Appaloosa Horse Club, died September 16, 2011, in Moscow, of causes related to age. He was 87. He was widely known in the horse world as Mr. Appaloosa for his efforts to preserve and promote the Appaloosa horse, and was a member of the Appaloosa Hall of Fame.

Hatley was born July 18, 1924, to Ray and Neva Dole Hatley on the Hatley ranch south of Pullman. He attended elementary the site of the present Appaloosa Horse Club. His education continued in Moscow schools. He graduated from Moscow High School in 1942.

Hatley worked on the construction of Farragut Naval Training Station and later took basic Navy training there. After discharge from the Navy, he attended the University of Idaho, graduating in 1950 with a Bachelor of Science degree in animal husbandry.

He married Iola Golden on June 21, 1947. The couple's son, Craig, was born in 1955.



Hatley worked as executive secretary of the Appaloosa Horse Club in Moscow for 31 years. He started the association's magazine, Appaloosa News (now Appaloosa Journal), published its first studbooks, implemented the first National Appaloosa Show and Sale (held in Lewiston, Idaho, in 1948 and 1949), and started the Appaloosa Museum. He wrote hundreds of articles and several books, including "Horse Camping," a classic now in its third printing.

He rode the 1,300-mile route of the Nez Perce War Trail twice, and completed the 100-mile, one-day Western States Trail Ride, or Tevis Cup, across the Sierra Nevada. He was a longtime cattleman, summering in the Deary, Idaho, area and wintering on Alpowa Creek west of Clarkston, Washington. He enjoyed driving horses and collecting horse-drawn vehicles. He made his Deary ranch



available for Pony Club, dressage and combined training, 4-H trail rides, and driving events.

Hatley enjoyed horse racing and bred one stallion that won 22 races and another that won 18 and went on to become an all-time leading sire of Appaloosa race horses.

He was a member of the Twin Rivers Backcountry Horsemen. He served as secretary of the Kendrick Cattle Association and president of the Helmer Cattle Association.

Hatley received numerous honors throughout his life, including election to the University of Idaho Alumni Hall of Fame. He's in the Idaho Hall of Fame, and was showcased in an article in Sports Illustrated for his success in bringing back the Appaloosa. He received a UI College of Agriculture outstanding alumnus award, and was awarded a place in the Washington State University Lariat Club's Hall of Fame. In 2004, the United States Pony Clubs designated Hatley a legend for his efforts on behalf of USPC.

He greatly prized an honor presented to him during a Lewiston Roundup by the Nez Perce tribe, a pair of beaded buckskin gauntlet gloves and a Pendleton blanket.

Hatley is survived by his wife, Iola, at their Moscow home; son Craig and daughter-in-law Cheri Hatley in Deary; grandchildren Justin Hatley and Danielle Hatley Pierson (Derek); and a sister, Veletta Frink. He was preceded in death by his parents and by a sister, Berneda Hamilton.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Appaloosa Museum, 2720 West Pullman Road, Moscow, ID 83843, and the Hatley Cemetery, P.O. Box 1035, Pullman, WA 99163.

*A memorial service was held in Moscow at the University of Idaho Administration Auditorium on Saturday, Oct 15, 2011.*

*Information and photos from the Moscow-Pullman Daily News and The Appaloosa Journal*



# Travelers' Rest Hosts National Campout

By Laura Lundquist, Ravalli Republic June 26, 2011

LOLO - Some young Montanans had their first camping experience alongside members of the Corps of Discovery over the weekend.

On Saturday, the summer sun finally stayed out, its rays dodging across the grass of Travelers' Rest State Park as cottonwood leaves waved in the breeze sliding down from Lolo Pass.

A scattering of canvas lean-to's sheltered deerskin-clad men as they scraped hide and cast lead bullets, just as the Lewis and Clark Expedition did while camped here in 1805. Across the field from this 19th century scene, parents pitched polyester tents while children ran around in cotton T-shirts and Gor-Tex boots.

All were sharing in the activity that spans generations: camping.

More than 60 people unrolled their sleeping bags at the state park as part of the **Great American Backyard Campout**, a free event sponsored by the National Wildlife Federation. Travelers' Rest event coordinator Martha Lindsey said many campers signed up at the last minute because of uncertainty over the weather. But they almost filled the 100 available slots. Wildlife Federation spokesman Hayley Connelly-Newman said this was the seventh year for the national event, but only the second year it's occurred locally.

Both years, Lolo campers have joined thousands participating across the nation, but nowhere else were people camping with the spirits of Meriwether Lewis and William Clark. A handful of Travelers' Rest Preservation and Heritage Association volunteers assumed the roles of Lewis and Clark's men, including Private John Colter and interpreter George Drouillard. "This is really special getting to have it at Travelers' Rest because we have the Lewis and Clark re-enactors, and normally people aren't allowed to camp here" Connelly-Newman said.

Some people might not have camped Saturday if they'd had to come up with their own gear. Bonner residents Mark and Tammy Paffhausen normally camp in a trailer, if they camp at all, but their trailer is broken. Plus, Tammy said her three children have been so involved in sports that they haven't been camping in more than four years. But all campers were allowed to use free tents donated by co-sponsor REI. The camping supply store also hosted a Leave-No-Trace activity, one of several afternoon offerings intended to highlight aspects of the outdoors.

The activities convinced one man to bring his 6-year-old grandson, Rowan Fortunanti, for his first out-of-the-backyard camping experience. The man, who would only identify himself as "Grumpa," said Rowan would be starting Cub Scouts next year so this would be a good introduction. "I didn't just want to go camping somewhere and have Rowan and Grumpa sitting in a tent staring at each other," Grumpa said. "I knew, with all the activities, this would be good." While Grumpa was setting up the tent, Rowan was busy painting leaves at a station hosted by Missoula Children and Nature. Some children climbed "Parks Peak," a small climbing wall set up by Missoula Parks and Recreation, while others searched for insects to identify with the help of Montana Natural History Center volunteers.

Naturalist Valerie Bayer patiently answered swarms of questions while entrapping various bugs under magnifying lenses so they could be ogled. "Heaven knows when you go camping, there's always going to be bugs," Bayer said. While Bayer's charges were swishing butterfly nets, others were swishing fly-fishing rods. Mike and Julie Cox waited for their three young children to finish getting instruction from Hellgate Hunters and Anglers volunteers and then tried their hands at flinging a fly.

"I'm a wannabe fisherman but I work too much," Mike said. "But we've tried to do as much as we can outside since we moved to Montana in August." Mike and Julie are originally from Washington state but have followed a convoluted path through California and Michigan to reach Montana, where they plan on staying. "We're hoping to do this every year, make it a tradition," Mike said. "There are not many places that have the activities and the historic pull of a place like this."

Laura Lundquist [laura.lundquist@ravallirepublic.com](mailto:laura.lundquist@ravallirepublic.com).





## Young Horsemen Project Featured in Smithsonian Institution American Indian Magazine Fall Edition

One cannot talk about the (American Indian) horse culture of the Plateau and Plains without talking about the beautiful Appaloosa horses of the Nimiipuu (Nez Perce). In 1806, while travelling among the Nimiipuu, Meriwether Lewis described their horses as having large spots of white, irregularly scattered and intermixed with brown.

In 1994 the Nimiipuu began the Young Horsemen's Program to teach its youth about tribal history as well as about breeding and caring for the horse. The Nimiipuu program uses as its foundation stock four types of mares, Arabian/Appaloosa, Thoroughbred/ Appaloosa, Quarterhorse/Appaloosa and Appaloosa/ Appaloosa. To breed with the mares the Nimiipuu chose the Akhal-Teke horse from Turkmenistan, which some think is the most ancient domesticated horse breed still extant. The crossbreeding has produced a horse with the traditional spots of the Appaloosa, but when the sunlight strikes the horse, it gives the coat a silky sheen. Some believe this project will destroy the Appaloosa horse, but the Nez Perce have a long history of breeding horses, and I believe the Appaloosa will long be part of their cultural identity.



At the Nez Perce National Historical Park Visitors Center in Spalding, Idaho, I had the great fortune to learn the proper function of a painted parfleche horse ornament located in our collection. I had originally selected this object to be included in the exhibition but I was unsuccessful in determining how the object should or could be worn on the horse. At the museum this ornament is displayed with saddle and crupper intact. The painted parfleche is worn beneath the saddle and is quite beautiful once you see its proper use.

To read the full article, entitled *Travels Through Horse Culture* please visit the National Museum of the American Indian website at <http://blog.nmai.si.edu/main/2011/10/travels-through-the-horse-culture.html>

*National Museum of the American Indian*, Fall 2011, "Travels Through the Horse Culture" by Emil Her Many Horses, page 18-23, © 2011, Smithsonian Institution, [National Museum of the American Indian](http://www.nmai.si.edu).

To learn more visit: [www.nezpercehorseregistry.com](http://www.nezpercehorseregistry.com)

## Fires Impacts the NPNHT During the Summer of 2011

The 2011 Fire Season in the northwest didn't arrive until late in the summer, but when it did arrive fire visited both the western and eastern ends of the NPNHT. The Canyon Creek Fire, located about five miles north of Laurel, MT, was started by a lightning strike on Monday, August 29, and expanded quickly due to extremely dry fuels and erratic winds. By Tuesday night the fire was estimated at 2,500 acres burning on private land. The fire closed part of Buffalo Trail Road north of Laurel for several days. It was declared 100% contained by Thursday September 2. (photo lower left)



On the afternoon of Wednesday, September 7, the Cactus Mountain Fire started, north of Imnah, OR. It burned 8,350 acres of tall grass, scattered timber, and brush between the lower Imnah River and the Snake River near Dug Bar in Hells Canyon National Recreation Area. While fighting the fire, crews worked in conditions where temperatures in the canyon exceeded 100 degrees, with humidity levels in the upper teens. Firefighters and aircraft worked diligently and safely for more than a week

to contain the fire. The fire also destroyed a number of NPNHT markers which were recently placed by the Nez Perce Appaloosa Horse Club and these will need to be replaced. (photos above)

Additional information about both fires can be found on [www.inciweb.org](http://www.inciweb.org) <http://www.inciweb.org/incident/2555/> and <http://www.inciweb.org/incident/2661/>





# Winter Recreation Opportunities along the Nez Perce National Historic Trail

The first signs and snowflakes of autumn are falling outside, snow levels are already dropping to near 3000 feet and the National Weather service has issued a forecast calling for another La Nina winter in the Northern Rockies.

"We should see system after system pound the Northwest into the Rockies," said Bob Nester of the National Weather Service's Missoula, MT, office, during a regional briefing on October 31. Many parts of the northern Rockies should be poised for a winter that could result in much deeper mountain snowpacks that linger far into spring. "So not only do we get storms, we get more frequent storms in a La Nina winter. Last year, we had two or three events with several storms in a row that produced a lot of precipitation. That's what's common in a La Nina winter - those bam-bam-bam events" said Nester.

All that means plenty of opportunity for winter enthusiasts to enjoy another beautiful winter along the Nez Perce National Historic Trail.

A couple of locations that offer people great opportunities to get out and play in the snow along the Trail include the Chief Joseph trail system and the Lolo Pass trail system.

The Chief Joseph Cross Country Ski Trail is a multi-loop system beginning on the north side of Highway 43 at Chief Joseph Pass near the Montana and Idaho border in southwest Montana. It is located approximately 90 miles south of Missoula, MT. This trail system provides winter sports enthusiasts with more than 15 miles of trail ranging in difficulty from easiest to most difficult. Visitors will find maps at the trailhead. The trails are groomed weekly by the Bitterroot Ski Club, a warming hut is open from December 1 - mid April and restrooms are also available.

The Gordon Reese Rental Cabin is also located near Chief Joseph Pass on the Montana-Idaho border. It was built in 2001. It is a hike-in cabin and is used as a warming hut in the winter. For information about renting this cabin please visit the Beaverhead Deerlodge National Forest website or call the Wisdom Ranger District at 406-689-3243.



Jon Packard, US Forest Service Image  
*Skier at Chief Joseph Pass*

The Bitterroot Cross-Country Ski Club also offers several learn-to-ski days at Chief Joseph during the winter. Obtain more information including trail reports, maps, and grooming updates from the club's website at: <http://bitterrootxcskiclub.net>.

The winter recreation area at Lolo Pass is located along US Hwy 12, approximately 30 miles west of Lolo, MT. In conjunction with the states of Montana and Idaho, the Clearwater National Forest operates the [Lolo Pass Visitor Center](#). Constructed in 2002, the facility is not only a recreational destination for winter sports enthusiasts, but also doubles as a rest area at the Montana/Idaho border along Highway 12. The facility includes an interpretive center, warming hut, 24-hour restroom, snowmobile parking lot, and parking

for other recreationists (pictured on right)

At Lolo Pass visitors will find cross-country ski and snowmobile trails as well as a snowshoe trail for your winter recreation enjoyment. When recreating at Lolo Pass you can stop in the warming hut for a cup of hot chocolate, tea, or coffee in front of a comforting warm fire. The visitor center will start operating on winter hours, Thursday—Sunday 8 a.m.—4:30 p.m., PST, in early December.

A *Winter Recreation Pass* is required at Lolo Pass (\$5 for the day, \$20 for the season). Day passes are available at the visitor center 7 days a week and season passes are available at the visitor center when they are open and at several vendors in Missoula. Don't make the mistake of parking along U.S. Highway 12 or within the outer 30 minute parking lot if you are recreating for the day.

For current Lolo Pass conditions or additional information please call the Powell Ranger Station at 208-942-3113 or Like them on Facebook at "Discover Your Northwest - Lolo Pass Visitor Center."

Ski trails are groomed every Saturday and Sunday morning. Snowmobile trails are groomed by the Missoula Snowgoers. Reports can be found online at [www.missoulasnowgoers.org/](http://www.missoulasnowgoers.org/)

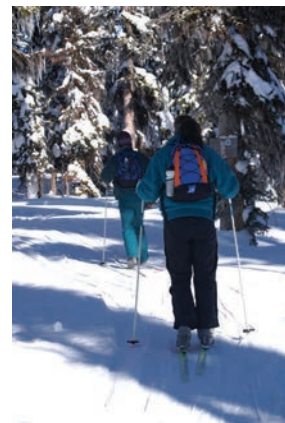
Remember to check weather and avalanche conditions before venturing out:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/view/states.php?state=id&map=on>

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/view/states.php?state=mt&map=on>

<http://www.avalanche.org/>

Visit the websites of the other National Forests and Parks along the [NPNHT](#) to learn about additional winter recreation opportunities.



Roger M. Peterson, US Forest Service Image  
*Skiers at Chief Joseph Pass*



Leslie Vannik, US Forest Service Image





## News From the Nez Perce Trail Foundation

The 2011 Teacher Project this year was a great success (*see photos on right*). The group participated in their annual volunteer project by painting picnic tables, fencing, and restrooms at the West Thumb Campground in Yellowstone National Park. Special thanks go to the Park Maintenance personnel, Jeri Berger, Bill Wright, and Wilie Burkehart, who supplied the material and supervised our work project.

The Classroom work was guided by Connie Jacobs, Director of the BLM's Missouri Breaks Interpretive Center in Fort Benton, MT. She provided the teacher's with some great hands-on projects for use in the classrooms.

One of the highlights was a hike to one of the Nez Perce sites that does not get many visitors. Dan Akin, archaeologist with the State of Wyoming, took the group on a ten mile hike through several buffalo herds, from the Lamar Valley to Cash Creek. (*see picture top right*)



The visit to the Cultural Resource Center in Gardner is always a highlight for the Program. Special thanks to Lee Whittlesey, Historian; Jessica Gerdes, Librarian; and Colleen Curry for their assistance in making the visit special.

The Howard Springs Project is a partnership with the Island Park Forest Service office, local boy scouts troop, the Island Park Historical Society, and the Nez Perce Trail Foundation (NPTF).

This site uses the natural surroundings to display the interpretative message. It is finished except for the official sign.

The official dedication for the Camas Meadows Site was held in August. (*pictured on left*)

This past year the Foundation provided 12,310 volunteer hours of work along the Nez Perce National Historic Trail.

Jim Evans, Executive Director, NPTF





## Nez Perce Trail Lends Support to 14<sup>th</sup> Annual PACE Camp

The Nez Perce National Historic Trail once again continued its support of this program during the summer of 2011. The following is taken from an article by Nez Perce Tribe Education Specialist, Solo Greene, published in the Ta'c Tito'oqan News in September of 2011,

The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual two week preparing for Academic Excellence (PACE) Math and Science Camp was a HUGE SUCCESS! The Camp was held July 18-29, 2011, at Lewis-Clark State College in Lewiston, ID. We had 27 students participate in the camp.

We received several different presentations on the environment and natural resources, and went on several field trips, including Washington State University, Hanford Nuclear Reservation, Nez Perce National Historical Park, Lewis and Clark State College Nursing Program, and the Asotin County Aquatic Center in Clarkston, WA.

The theme for the two week camp focused on alternative energy. The students heard presentations about solar energy, nuclear energy, wind turbines, bio-fuels, and natural resources.

Mr. Greene would like to thank all the sponsors, presenters and volunteers for helping out.

## Chief Joseph Trail Ride Marks 47 Years

This past summer participants in the annual Chief Joseph Trail Ride made the trek from Leadore, ID to West Yellowstone, MT.

This year's ride marks the 47<sup>th</sup> year that the Appaloosa Horse Club has made the ride which commemorates the 1877 Flight of the Nez Perce.

"We follow about 100 miles of the Nez Perce Trail each year," said Lacy Brown, "We try to follow the trail as much as historically possible. It's not always easy for the large group to locate a place to rest after a long day of trail riding though we have to find somewhere to accommodate our camp," Brown said in an interview with the *West Yellowstone News*.



Roger M. Peterson, US Forest Service Image

Chief Scout for the ride, Bob Swick, explained his roll to the *West Yellowstone News*. "The chief scout assists people along the trail during the daytime and makes sure everything runs smoothly at camp at night," said Swick.

Also participating this year were members of the Nez Perce Appaloosa Horse club, including several young female riders (*pictured above participating in the Big Hole memorial on their return trip to Idaho*). A photographer from National Geographic was shadowing them and taking pictures for a story planned to run in the magazine in late 2012.

This summer riders from 34 states, Canada, and Great Britain participated in the ride.

Next year the ride will traverse the trail through Yellowstone National Park.





## News From the National Park Service:

### Big Hole National Battlefield

Major construction on the Big Hole National Battlefield Visitor Center wrapped up on September 9.

There is still a lot to do. The painters need to finish the floor in the new hall way and finish staining the douglas fir on the outside. The Park has lots of things to do as well. While all of the work was going on outside, we were busy redoing the inside. Our Ranger offices were redone (merging three into one). We painted, laid new carpet, and rewired major parts of the building in preparation for the new exhibits!

The first part of the exhibit installation occurred the weeks of August 8th and 15th. At that time, Turner Exhibits installed all of the cases and most of wall exhibits. They also did a lot of new lighting. Even with nothing in the cases and the 3-D map not installed, the place looked great! The new screen for the movie is huge compared to the way we used to show it. The second part arrived in late September



Big Hole Visitor Center renovation complete (top after, and bottom before).



and included the audio portions of the exhibits, the artifacts that have been stored in the vaults at Nez Perce NHP for the last 15 months, and the 3-D map of the route the Nez Perce took in 1877 (*pictured on left*). The last of the wall exhibits were installed at that time. We can begin to move to close down our temporary Visitor Center and start the move into our new/old home.

Landscape restoration is underway on the front lawn. This project will take some time. We are going to use native plants, and once the area is established we will install a

walking path through the area with small interpretive signs talking about each plant and its uses. The hard part will be getting it established, but once that is done we will allow nature to take its course, thus conserving water and natural resources. We need to do some restoration work on the tipi part of the Visitor Center and ground restoration where the new 12,000 gallon fire tank sits.

The last of our summer staff left on September 6th so we are back to our winter staffing levels. The Park changed to winter hours on November 6, 2011, and is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.. The days are crisp while temperatures at night dip well below freezing. Visitation is down, so now is a perfect time to visit the Park.

Steve Black  
Superintendent  
Big Hole National Battlefield  
Wisdom, Montana

**Be Safe in Your Fall Travels and Begin Your Preparation for Winter Travel**  
**The Staff of the NPNHT want your experience along the Trail this Fall to be a safe one.**

**Please take a few minutes to review the Trail's  
Safety and Ethics Website before you begin your journey:**

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/npnht/ethics>







## News From the National Park Service:

### News from Bear Paw Battlefield

Nez Perce National Historic Trail (NPNHT) Fiscal Year 2011 Challenge Cost Share grant recipient, the Blaine County Museum of Chinook, MT, hosted Dr.



Stephanie Martin, National Park Service Image

Dr. Scott at the Blaine Co Museum, Chinook, MT

Douglas D. Scott the week of August 15 this past summer. Dr. Scott is an Adjunct Professor of Anthropology at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He also spent more than 30 years with the Department of the Interior and specializes in nineteenth century military sites, archeology, and forensic archeology. He evaluated and cleaned a collection of Nez Perce and U.S. Army items from the Bear Paw Battlefield. The collection was donated by Great Falls resident John Michaud and contains over 100 pieces, including pistols, a rifle, and personal items

from the Nez Perce camp including salmon hooks, a carved pipe head, and a brass trade ring. He toured the battlefield with

Ranger Stephanie Martin and visited the Napoleon cannon site. From this location, Colonel Nelson A. Miles used a 12-Pounder Napoleon Civil War cannon to bombard the Nez Perce camp area during the 6-day battle and siege in 1877.



Stephanie Martin, National Park Service Image

Dr. Scott at the Napoleon site, Bear Paw Battlefield

Stephanie Martin  
Park Ranger, Bear Paw Battlefield



### News from Nez Perce National Historical Park

Nez Perce National Historical Park (NPNHP) Interpreters took part in several community festivals this year including Lapwai Days (*photo right*), White Bird Days, Camas Fest in Weippe, ID, and the Raspberry Festival in

Cottonwood, ID. Rangers also presented programs at 18 libraries as part of the summer reading program.

Family Day in the Park was held at Spalding on July 19. Several activities were available for families to enjoy including traditional Nez Perce fishing, ledger art, water quality monitoring, beavers, and making traditional dolls; 48 people took part and all the young participants earned their Junior Ranger badges. *Cont. on page 14*



National Park Service Image





## News From the National Park Service (Cont): Nez Perce National Historical Park

On August 13, the park held Watson's Store Day to celebrate the Centennial of the store. Lewis and Margaret Watson opened for business in 1911 and ran the store until it closed in 1964. Some of the original furnishings were placed back in the building and some of the shelves were restocked in preparation for the event. At 10 a.m. the store was opened to the public for the first time since 1989. More than 145 people visited during the day and many shared their memories of the store when the Watsons were still running it. (*interior of Watson's Store pictured on right*)



An ice cream social followed in the yard next to the store. The Spalding Presbyterian Church was also open for visitors.

Following extensive consultation with Nez Perce Tribe and related bands on the Colville and Umatilla Indian reservations, new exhibits have been installed in the refurbished Big Hole National Battlefield (BHNB) Visitor Center. A formal dedication will occur next spring. The exhibits portray the Nez Perce war and flight, and this historic battle, from tribal perspectives.

The park is coordinating similar consultation to develop a new 18-minute interpretive film on the Nez Perce people. Initial script development is underway. Upon completion in 2013 the film will be made available along the Nez Perce National Historic Trail (NPNHT).

Nez Perce NHP and Big Hole NB provided logistical and other support to the NPNHT in hosting and facilitating several of its public workshops for the Trail's Comprehensive Management Plan Revision, at and near our mutual component sites.

Through its cooperation with the Upper Columbia Basin Network Inventory and Monitoring Program, the sixth year of citizen-science camas monitoring occurred at Weippe Prairie in cooperation with area high schools. Also, 2011 marked the third year of organized data collection of camas at Big Hole NB, and the first year under a 2010 protocol to collect population trend information on a rare wildflower species, *Lemhi penstemon*. Another inventory of *Spalding's Silene*, another threatened and endangered plant species, took place at the Old Joseph Gravesite and nearby Iwetemlaykin State Park near Joseph, OR. The Park conducted noxious weed mapping at Weippe Prairie and White Bird Battlefield for compilation in a GIS database. This will identify invasive plant density and type, and enable park managers to develop effective control and restoration at these component Trail sites.

The Park obtained \$85,000 in *Connecting Trails to Parks* funding for interpretive signs and structures at Dug Bar; and another \$4,500 from the same source for volunteer-based Trail interpretation in Oregon.

The Annual Beadwork Bazaar will be held at the Spalding Visitor Center on Saturday, December 3, 2011, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. PST.

Information provided by  
Scott Eckberg and Terry O'Halloran of Nez Perce National Historical Park







## News From the National Forests:

### Bitterroot National Forest

#### Summer Ride on the Nez Perce Trail

Have you and your equine steed enjoyed riding any of the Nez Perce Historic Trail paralleling Highway 43 and/or the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail north from Chief Joseph Pass? On August 23 and 24 this year five members of the Bitterroot Back Country Horsemen BBCH and two non-BBCH members did just that. We had planned to ride/camp in the Lincoln, MT, area that week but the West Riverside fire in Bonner blew up the night before so at 7:30 a.m. Tuesday we changed our plans so our route wouldn't take us through unknown travel hazards and headed south for a rendezvous at Chief Joseph Pass.



We combined horses in trailers and drove about 13-15 miles east on Highway 43 (toward Wisdom, MT) and parked at the winter snowmobile parking lot. We rode west on the Nez Perce Historic Trail toward Trail Creek Road (road into Hogan's cabin) several miles but didn't have time to finish that section. If we had gone east we would have ended up at an overlook into the Big Hole Battlefield where several of us plus others had ridden last year. We cleared one tree and its broken branches off the trail and tried to move one leaner. There were a few other small trees over the trail that were just a few inches high and easy to step over. The trail goes from fairly rocky and narrow to wide forest floor tread, sagebrush on the open hillsides, small creeks and lots of grass, and along old dirt roads. Sometimes you're right next to the highway following the old jack-leg fence and sometimes you are WAY UP THERE above the highway which is visible several times along the trail. It is amazing

how much traffic is on that road in the middle of the week.

We backtracked to the trailers after more than 3 hours of saddle time and drove back to Chief Joseph Pass where we highlined the horses and offered water that we brought along because there is none available there (it was handy having the outhouse there). We set up camp at our trailers and had a pleasant evening with few bugs and the smoke from the Saddle fire we had been riding in during the day cleared to a great view of the Big Dipper right over our heads. After breakfast Wednesday two riders had to return home and the other five riders set off for Gibbons Pass (see photo above) 7 to 8 miles down the trail which takes you past the cross-country ski hut. The trail is in great shape, just a little rocky and dusty in places, and it doesn't look like it's seen much (or any) equine traffic this year.



We encountered only one tree across the trail near Gibbons Pass and it was way too big for our saws to tackle but was easy to ride around. We enjoyed a leisurely lunch at Gibbons Pass and decided to retrace our route back to Chief Joseph Pass. Of the riders over the two days only one other person besides me had been on the Nez Perce trail section and one on the Continental Divide so most experienced new trails and adventures (and enjoyed them again, too). We definitely made great "lemonade" out of the aborted trip to Lincoln.

By Laura McManus, Bitterroot Backcountry Horsemen  
*Photos courtesy of the Bitterroot Backcountry Horsemen*



## **New Faces Along the Trail:**

### **Ron Hecker Named New Gardiner District Ranger**

The Gallatin National Forest is pleased to announce that Ron Hecker has accepted the District Ranger position for the Gardiner Ranger District. Ron will replace former Ranger Mary Maj.

Since 2008 Ron Hecker has been the District Ranger on the McKenzie Ranger District of the Little Missouri Grasslands, Dakota Prairie National Grasslands in Watford City, ND. Ron was raised on a small ranch in eastern Montana just south of the little town of Sumatra and attended grade school in Ingomar, MT, and high school at Melstone, MT. He and his wife Brandi are both Montana State University graduates where they received B.S. degrees in Range Management. They have two daughters, ages 13 and 6. Ron has worked on the Nebraska, Custer, and Lewis and Clark National Forests and brings a wealth of experience in resource management, particularly in range management to the Gallatin. “I have a strong commitment to our natural resources and the public I serve,” said Hecker. “I am committed to developing, maintaining, and enhancing partnerships and working together to help meet the Forest’s natural resource goals. My commitment to family, friends and our natural resources has guided my path through life. My interests have revolved around hunting and fishing and the friendships developed and strengthened through outdoor activities,” added Hecker.



Ron began work in Gardiner on October 23, 2011.

### **Jerry Kruger to Serve as Bitterroot Planning Staff Officer**



Dr. Jerry Krueger is the new Forest Planning Staff Officer for the Bitterroot National Forest. Jerry has responsibility for Timber, Silviculture, GIS, NEPA, Inventory and Monitoring, Recreation, Trails, and Wilderness programs.

While he has an extensive background in natural resource management, this is his first job with the Forest Service. Prior to joining the BNF team, he spent two years as Science Coordinator for Everglades National Park, managing the Critical Ecosystem Studies Initiative supporting the broader Everglades ecosystem restoration effort. He also worked on climate change issues for the park and as a member of the Park Service climate change working group. Jerry completed his PhD in Silviculture at the University of Minnesota, and worked as a Research Silviculturist and Natural Resources/Forestry consultant for the US Air Force and South Dakota State

University. His research specialty is examining the regeneration dynamics that occur in conifer communities.

You can contact Jerry at [jakrueger@fs.fed.us](mailto:jakrueger@fs.fed.us) or his office 406-363-7109.





## New Faces Along the Trail:

### Kathy Rodriguez is New North Fork District Ranger

Kathy Rodriguez recently joined the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests' staff as the new District Ranger at the North Fork Ranger District located in Orofino, ID.

Kathy's most recent Forest Service job was the Forest Planner position on the Kootenai National Forest (NF) in Libby, MT. She lateralled into that job in 2008 when she moved from Alaska so that her husband could take on the job of District Ranger on the Cabinet District of the Kootenai NF.

In 1981, Kathy received her BS degree in Wildlife Management from Humboldt State University in northern California. She started as a seasonal employee in 1982 with the Intermountain Research Station in Boise, ID. She worked on various streams doing instream/riparian surveys, electrofishing, with the Nez Perce and Clearwater, Boise and Sawtooth NFs, and various locations within Utah and Nevada.

In 1988, she moved to the Mt. Hood where she continued as a seasonal in Wildlife Resources, on the Forest's first round of Forest Planning.

In 1991, she received her first permanent position in the Regional Office (RO) in Missoula, MT. Kathy was the coordinator for Challenge Cost Share projects, Sikes Act, and other Partnership programs for the R.O., as well as the appeal coordinator for issues/concerns related to wildlife.

Between 1996 and 2001, she created her own enterprise position (due to downsizing in the RO at the time and other personal life-changes), where she moved to the Medicine Bow-Routt NFs in Laramie, WY, and securing her own funding, worked for the Intermountain Regional Office and Washington Office in wildlife and NEPA-related appeal issues. In 2001, she moved back to Missoula to take on the challenge of NEPA contracting for the Region. In 2005, she accepted the District Ranger position on Admiralty Island National Monument on the Tongass NF in Juneau, AK (Region 10).

Kathy and her husband, Lee Kramer, plan on looking for a place to live in or around Orofino. Lee is soon to be retired from the Forest Service.

"I have one daughter age 24, and 6 step-children, ages 24 to 34. "The kids live all over the place (Mountain View, CA; Seattle, WA; Atlanta, GA; and Birmingham, AL)," shared Kathy. "I love to knit, read, hike, fish, and cook."

When asked what her plans for the future of the Nez Perce-Clearwater Forests are, Kathy added, "I am looking forward to getting to know the people and the land, working with the local communities as we manage the resources, while maintaining a safe and healthy work environment."

### Josh Chase New HiLine Archaeologist

Josh Chase recently accepted the position of Archaeologist for the BLM's HiLine office in Havre, MT.

Josh grew up in Cody, WY. During the past decade he served as a Paratrooper in the US Army which included time in Iraq. He is a graduate of the University of Wyoming with a degree in Archaeology. He and his wife Jennifer have two boys ages 2 and 4 years old, and also manage a saddle shop.

In his spare time Josh likes to hunt, fish, and rope.



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Progress Report - Nez Perce NHT - Fall 2011—November is Native American Heritage Month

## Fall Scenes Along the Nez Perce National Historic Trail

Images by Joni Packard and Roger Peterson, US Forest Service



Bitterroot River, near Hamilton, MT



Riders at Bear Paw Battlefield



Chief Looking Glass State Park, Florence, MT



Near West Yellowstone, MT